

Preparation. Established pot grown stocks of *Acer platanoides* are brought into a cool, airy house 4 to 6 weeks prior to grafting. When they are suitably dried off, grafting can commence which takes place in late January.

Operation. The stocks are cut back to within 2" to 3" of the soil. The type of graft used is a side whip and is tied with thin rubber strips. The scion wood used is 6" long terminal shoots.

Aftercare. When grafted, the plants are plunged into moist peat with the union covered in a closed case with 65°F bottom heat. In about three weeks callus is visible and top growth begins. At this stage air is gradually applied and watering can take place. After hardening off, the plants are stood on an open shaded bench and, when weather permits, the plants are planted into a cold frame.

TOP GRAFTING OF *ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS* 'BRILLIANTISSIMUM'

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In 1975 I was asked to produce a small quantity of *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' trees by the management for their retail outlet.

Understocks. I had no potted *Acer pseudoplatanus* understocks available at the time so I had to use three-year-old seedlings dug straight from the field, prior to grafting.

Scion Material. My scion material was in short supply, mainly because this tree had always been bought in before. I had one 10-year-old tree available at the nursery and had also found a much older specimen in a nearby village. The scion material was one-year-old wood and it was treated in two different ways. Material off the young plant was cut in mid-winter and heeled-in in peat and sand in an outside open frame. Material off the older plant was cut just before grafting.

Grafting Procedure. I grafted *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' in mid-February. The method I used was the splice graft. This is a very simple graft — just like the whip and tongue without the tongue. First the understock was dug and then brought under cover, all side shoots were trimmed up and then the stocks were cut off at the appropriate grafting height. They were then grafted with 15 cm scions. These were tied in with Rapidex ties. The resulting grafts were not waxed, but were covered with a 20 cm square clear polythene bag. This was tied with another Rapidex tie. The resulting grafted trees

were potted immediately and then taken to a cold greenhouse and watered in.

Aftercare. The grafted trees were watered regularly and any understock suckers rubbed off. After 4 to 6 weeks callus formation could be seen on the grafts, but I left the polythene bags on until I saw the scions bursting into growth — the polythene bags were then removed. The Rapidex ties were left tied around the graft as long as possible in order to create a good union and were finally removed three months after grafting. An overall grafting take of 85% was achieved. The young trees were left inside to form a good head; when this was achieved they were taken outside.

Observations. There seems to be no need to have established potted understocks as long as the understocks from outside are grafted and potted while fresh. The difference between heeled-in and fresh scions is insignificant, so fresh-cut scions can be used for *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' as long as the timing of grafting is right. I have continued this basic grafting method in 1976 and 1977 with a few slight variations in that I have tried two-year-old stems and also inside scion material. The younger stems form a much better match with the scion material so forming a good graft union. Inside scion material has much stronger growth and the takes seem just as good with this material.

HARDWOOD CUTTINGS — FIELD PRODUCTION

NAT CLAYTON and JOHN RICHARDSON

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Production Lists. These are made up bearing in mind what we think we can sell, what we need for growing on, and the amount of land available. Four lists are made — two for office records and one each for the propagator and planting foreman. There has been an increased demand for *Sambucus*, *Symphoricarpos*, bush *Salix*, and *Populus* over the last few years for screening and planting industrial sites. Land has now become our most limiting factor against increased production.

Cuttings. Cuttings are taken from stock hedges or any other source available. They are made approximately 6" long of one year wood, the material being no thinner than a pencil. Thicker material makes the better plants eventually. We start with *Sambucus* as soon as possible in late October and November as these cuttings are from hedges which will be cut by a contractor as soon as the sugar beets have been harvested. The *Sambucus*